Home Education Division. Reading Course No. 1.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF EDUCATION,
WASHINGTON D. C.

THE WORLD'S GREAT LITERARY BIBLES.

Among the books of the world a few are so preeminent for content and style that they have been called "The Literary Bibles." These are the Iliad and the Odyssey of Homer, the Divine Comedy of Dante, the greater dramas of Shakespeare, and Goethe's Faust. Each of these is the embodiment and revelation of the ideals of a race, an age, or a civilization. They came out of the hearts and minds of the people for whom their authors were only spokesmen. They are therefore simple, fundamental, and comprehensive. They appeal to the hearts and grip the minds of all people everywhere, young and old, learned and unlearned, of whatever race or creed. They are human books and take firm hold on the human life which we all live, which few understand, but which in all its phases has "interest without end." They are broad-minded books. Their authors saw life steadily and saw it whole. Kings and priests to God and humanity, they interpreted for man the eternal mysteries. Prophetic men, they stood on the mountain tops and caught the glow of the ever-dawning new day. Finely organized men, they felt the heart throb and pulse beat of the human race; they understood the hopes and fears and aspirations of humanity better than most, and they have set these to the music of rhythmic winged words.

These books should be read by all who would know the world's literature and life. The United States Bureau of Education has therefore chosen them for its first course in reading, and invites all serious-minded young men and women to join this, its first national reading circle, the members of which will undertake to read each of these books, at least twice within the next three years from the time of joining the circle.

To each person who gives satisfactory evidence of having read all the books on the list a certificate will be awarded bearing the seal of the United States Bureau of Education and signed by the Commissioner of Education. All young men and women who want to know the best there is in the literature of the world and to gain the inspiration it gives are invited to join this national reading circle, and it is hoped that many thousands will do so.

Charles Alphonso Smith, professor of English in the University of Virginia; Charles Forster Smith, professor of Greek in the University of Wisconsin; Richard Burton, professor of English literature in the University of Minnesota; and William Lyon Phelps, professor of English literature in Yale University, will assist the Bureau of Education in directing this course of reading.

In writing about this course refer to it as "United States Bureau of Education, Home Education Division, Reading Course No. 1," or "The Literary Bibles Reading Course."

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READING COURSE NO. 1.

1. The Iliad of Homer. Lang, Leaf, and Myer. Macmillan Co., New York $0.25
2. The Odyssey of Homer. Butcher and Lang. Macmillan Co., New York ..... .80
   or
   The Odyssey of Homer. William Cullen Bryant. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Students' edition 1.25
3. The Divine Comedy of Dante. C. E. Norton. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston ..... 3 vols. each .. 1.50
   or
   The Divine Comedy of Dante. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York. Astor edition ..... .75
   or
   The Divine Comedy of Dante. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston 2.50
4. Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, Othello, and Hamlet. Any edition.
5. Goethe's Faust. Bayard Taylor. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston 2.50

REFERENCE BOOKS:

Introduction to Homer. Richard C. Jebb. Gayley's Classical Myths. Ginn & Co., N. Y. $1.50. Classical Dictionary. William Smith. American Book Co., N. Y. $4.25.

NOTE:

When no publisher is mentioned, the books may be obtained at varying prices, depending on the quality of the edition. Apply to any book dealer or publisher. The Bureau of Education does not lend nor sell the books.

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